

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully considered the arguments presented by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed January 26, 2007, and in view of the Examiner's position, the pending claims have been extensively amended. As the Examiner will note, virtually all of the original claims have been canceled, and an entirely new set of claims has been submitted in response to the Examiner's arguments. As now presented, the pending claims specifically detail and precisely point out the unique features of the present invention which are believed to clearly and unequivocally distinguish the prior art constructions.

As now presented, newly added independent Claim 16 specifically defines a crimping tool which incorporates two elongated handle members and two clamping jaws cooperatively associated to form a clamping jaw assembly, with the handle members pivotally mounted to each other while the first and second clamping jaws are also pivotally mounted to each other as well as being independently pivotally mounted to one of the handle members. This multiple, compound pivot axis construction is specifically defined and detailed in Claim 16. In addition, Claim 16 and the claims dependent thereon specifically defines the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw as comprising substantially identical constructions which are mounted in side to side, cooperating relationship, with the crimping zone forming recess of each jaw member being positioned for cooperating relationship to form a crimping zone which is

substantially circular and moves between an open and closed position due to the arcuate pivoting movement of the jaw members.

Furthermore, the crimping zone forming arcuate recesses comprise smooth sidewalls and cooperates with substantially flat, smooth side edges of the jaw member which are positioned at both ends of the curved crimping zone. Finally, the incorporation of a tie plate extending between the first clamping jaw and the second clamping jaw is also specifically detailed in Claim 16 with the tie plate being mounted to the clamping jaws, extending between the separate pivot axes of each clamping jaw.

As now presented, independent Claim 16 is believed to distinguish the prior art references cited by the Examiner. In particular, Demler, the principal reference, is clearly distinguished by the definition of each clamping jaw as comprising an arcuately curved recess which cooperates with the arcuately curved recess of the adjacent clamping jaw to form a crimping zone which comprises a substantially circular shape. In Demler, the jaw members do not cooperate to establish a circular shaped crimping zone and require a slide plate to be movable into cooperating relationship to complete the crimping operation. Furthermore, even with the slide plate, a circular shaped crimping zone is not established.

The specific detailed structural elements and features defined in independent Claim 16, as well as in the claims dependent thereon, clearly and unequivocally distinguish the references cited by the Examiner. In particular, most of the prior art references fail to teach or suggest crimping tools wherein each jaw member is identical

in construction to each other while also failing to teach or suggest a construction having compound pivot axes.

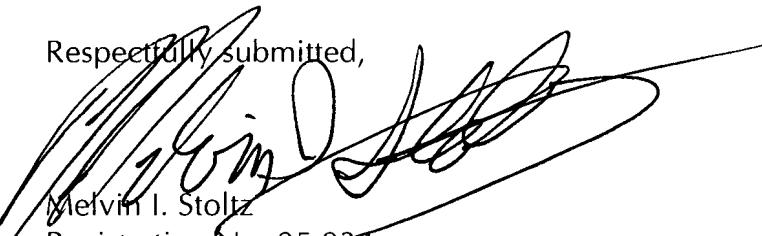
Furthermore, the prior art references fail to teach the combination of all of these features along with jaw members which are toothless, incorporating smooth, toothless crimping zones in combination with substantially flat, smooth, toothless surfaces on both jaw members adjacent to the terminating end of the arcuately curved, crimping zone forming recesses. In addition, these elements are defined in conjunction with a construction which enables the substantially flat, smooth, toothless surfaces of the jaw members to be brought into direct contact with each other substantially simultaneously and in a single plane.

In the Claims now presented, the minimum separation distance between the two pivot axes of the jaw members is specifically defined which is of principal importance in providing substantially enhanced compression forces in the arcuately curved recesses forming the crimping zone. By employing a construction as detailed in the amended claims, an enhanced crimping tool is realized which is capable of imparting substantially greater crimping forces without requiring excessive clamping pressure being applied thereto.

In view of the detailed structural features and elements defined in amended Claim 16 and the resulting unique configuration established thereby, which is clearly not shown or taught by the prior art references, whether considered independently or in combination, the Applicant maintains that Claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 5, and 17-25 are all dependent upon Claim 16 and novel combinations thereto. As detailed above, the features defined in these independent claims clearly and unequivocally establish unique constructions which are not in any way taught or suggested by the prior art references. As a result, the Applicant believes that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing amendment and the arguments set out herein, the Applicant believes that the pending claims are now all in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is earnestly solicited. If any questions remain which may be resolved in a telephone interview, Applicant's undersigned Attorney would gladly discuss such issues with the Examiner at the Examiner's convenience. For this purpose, Applicants undersigned Attorney has provided his telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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